

Appl. No. 09/740,042
Amdt. Dated April 2, 2004
Reply to Office Action of December 11, 2003

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Independent claim 1, original dependent claims 3, 5-17 and new dependent claims 18 and 19 remain in this application for examination.

Applicant expresses his sincere appreciation for the allowance of the subject matter of claims 2-3 and 6-17. The subject matter of claim 2 has been placed in independent form by incorporation of the limitations of claim 2 into independent claim 1. Since all claims remaining in this application now depend from claim 1 as amended, dependent claims 3 and 5-19 are allowable for the same reasons as claim 1.

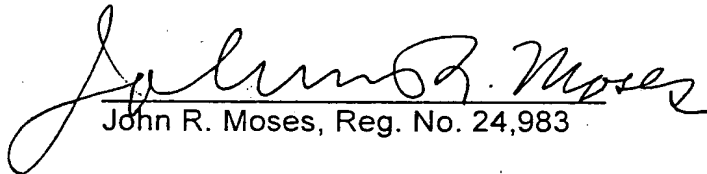
New independent claims 18 and 19, which depend from claims 14 and 15, define the curves of Figs. 7a and 7b through 14a and 14b from which the end points of Figs. 7c-14c are derived. Accordingly, the new claims require no further search and define no new issues in that they depend from claims 14 and 15 which are already considered by the Examiner to be allowable.

In that this is a full and complete response to the Final Office Action of December 11, 2003, this application is now in condition for allowance. Such allowance is hereby respectfully requested. If the Examiner for any reason feels a personal conference with Applicant's attorneys might expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned locally.

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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this response or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3402.

Respectfully submitted,


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